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MISCELLANEOUS ANTIQUITIES.

ANCIENT CORPORATION SEAL OF IRISHTOWN. — The Rev. James Graves, Hon. Secretary, reported that during a recent visit to Dublin he had been informed by Mr. Clibborn, assistant librarian of the Royal Irish Academy, that a gentleman had lately called to show him the matrix of an ancient corporate seal connected with Kilkenny. He (Mr. Graves) had at once proceeded to this gentleman's residence, and learned from him that the owner of the seal was a lady, a Mrs. Roe of Kingstown, who was not at all aware as to the mode in which she became possessed of the seal in question. On inspection, it proved to be the original matrix of the seal of the ancient corporation of Irishtown, which had been a separate municipality from that of Kilkenny, and was under the patronage of the bishops of Ossory. It had been lost about eighty or ninety years since; but he had once seen an imperfect impression attached to a document now also lost, as it had not been handed over by the last portrieve of Irishtown to the present town clerk when the late corporation bill amalgamated the two Kilkenny corporate bodies. Mrs. Roe being willing to dispose of the matrix, he had purchased it from her for the museum of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, for £2. 10s. The seal was a very curious one, being of large size, circular, with a rude representation of the west end of the Cathedral of St. Canice in the centre; and in the exergue an inscription which, filling up the contractions, reads — "SIGILLVM. COMMVNE. CIVIVM. KILKENNIENSIVM. SEDIS. OSSORIE." — "the common seal of the Kilkenny citizens of the see of Ossory." The general execution of the matrix and the form of the letters pointed to the fourteenth century at latest, as the date of the workmanship. The material was pure copper, and in this, as also in the inferiority of execution, this seal differs from the fine common seal of the City of Kilkenny, which is of the yellow metal called latten, probably produced by a mixture of copper, tin, and sulphurate of arsenic. The gentleman through whom the seal was procured was Mr. Wade, a wine-merchant, of Middle Abbey-street, Dublin. Mrs. Roe's husband had been a clergyman, a native of Wexford, in no way connected with Kilkenny.

ANCIENT IRISH CROSIER.—Mr. John F. Shearman presented drawings of an ancient crosier, or pastoral staff, found in a bog near Prosperous, County of Kildare, about twelve years since; and bought, for the Clongowes museum, from the person who found it. Its length, exclusive of the curve, was forty-eight inches. The curve measured externally ten inches to its termination at the pendant, which was parallel to the staff; the staff measured one inch in diameter. Its material was yew covered with thin sheet bronze, having ornamental bands at intervals. The joinings of the bronze were concealed by a slip of the same material ornamented with interlaced tracery. The staff was divided into three parts by four bands; the first at the commencement of the curve, the fourth six inches from the end. These bands were not cast in the solid, they seemed rather to consist of frame-work with

ornamental parts inserted like panels, as appeared where some had fallen out. The end of the staff tapered to a point, and was octagonal: four of the sides were alternately ornamented with interlaced tracery. Near the extremity was a series of human heads, the chins opposite each other. The outer edge of the crook was adorned with a contiguous series of birds like swans; the curve ending with the head of some curious animal; at the top, fixed on an elongation of the plate on which the swans rested, was a human head and neck. The front of the pendant was curiously carved. At the top and midway on the sides stones were set, of which the upper one, the largest, now only remained. It was of a dark blue colour like glass, and was quite opaque and worn. On the end of the pendant, which was flat and nearly triangular in shape, there was an imperfect Irish inscription. Near the bands and other prominent parts, there were some remains of blue enamel; it was likely the carved parts were originally filled with it. The staff was broken near the middle, and rudely repaired by the finder, judging from the nails used.

MONUMENTAL CROSSES AT KILKIARAN.—Mr. W. R. Blackett, Ballyne, forwarded the following particulars respecting the very ancient and richly carved monumental crosses in the burial-ground at Kilkiaran, near Piltown, County of Kilkenny. The church having been modernly re-edified as a mausoleum for the family of Osborne, of Kilmacoliver, possesses no feature to interest the antiquary, with the exception of a carved stove, evidently a portion of an ancient cross, used as a lintel to the door-way. This stone is only half the thickness of the wall, and is carved, in part, with straight lines and circles; either the carving was never finished, or a portion has been purposely smoothed away:—

“The crosses are three in number, one of which alone is perfect. This latter is of a most unusual and peculiar form. The base or pedestal is circular; and in a socket, in the centre, is placed a shaft ten feet four inches high; at three feet from the top are two short arms only one foot four inches across; these point about south and north, and on the east side are four small semicircular notches—I know not what else to call them—on each corner, two above and two below the arms. On the corners of the cross are circular projecting mouldings cut, though very faintly, into ropes. There are no other mouldings except shallow panels on the east and west faces of the shaft, only going about four feet from the base; that on the east face goes some inches higher than that on the west. The shaft is wedged into the base by a small stone on the east side. The dimensions of this cross are—from base to centre between the arms, seven feet four inches; from thence to top, three feet. The arms, one foot four inches across; circumference of pedestal, twelve feet; size of shaft at socket, eleven inches by six and a-half; below arms, seven inches by six and a-half. The first broken cross is situated south of the last and south-east of the church; it is of the usual form, with the circle round the arms. It has no mouldings or sculptured ornaments except a square border all round the edge, and a large boss in the centre. The square pe-

destal is buried within a few inches of the surface of the ground. In the socket stands about two feet of the shaft, and near it is the head, buried up to the centre in the earth. The dimensions are—three feet three inches across the arms, and nine inches square at the top of shaft. The cap which is said to belong to it is placed on the other broken cross, and that belonging to the latter lies by this. Dimensions of cap—one foot one inch high by three feet ten inches in circumference. At the socket the shaft is ten inches and a-half by one foot square, and the angle-mouldings are one and a-half inches deep. The other broken cross is north-west of the church. It is of the same shape as the last mentioned, but with round rope-mouldings on the edges, and a double rope on the two sides. The pedestal has several steps, if I may use the term, and several feet of the shaft stand in the socket. The head stands near, being used as the head-stone to a grave. It has the usual five bosses, one in the centre, one in each arm, one above, and one below, the centre; these are all plain; but the rest of the cross is covered with interlaced work, of various patterns. This extends over all the pedestal, except the east side, which has three or four rows of men on horseback. On the arms the rope mouldings do not come within two inches of the end, a peculiarity which I have seen nowhere else. Dimensions—three feet five inches across the arms. From top to centre, two feet ten inches; shaft at socket, one foot four inches square; pedestal, three feet square; cap, one foot in diameter by one foot ten inches in height.”

THE FITZGERALDS OF BROWNSFORD.—The Rev. P. Moore, R.C.C., Rosbercon, in presenting to the museum of the Society a grant made under the commission for the remedy of defective titles, in the year 1638, to Edmund Fitzgerald of Brownsford and Cluan, alias Clonamery, with the great seal of Ireland, in beautiful preservation, attached by a curiously platted silken cord, communicated the following notice of the family:—

“Of the two powerful Anglo-Norman families of Kildare and Desmond, which originally sprung from the same parent stock, many great and important off-shoots were settled in various parts of the kingdom: in the County of Kilkenny there were three, deriving their descent from the house of Desmond, viz., those of Burntchurch and of Brownsford, the heads of which houses were styled barons; and another family of the Fitzgeralds, who lived at Gurteen, on the Kilkenny side of the Suir, near Waterford. Being only barons palatine, they were not lords of parliament, but a kind of lesser nobility. The Fitzgeralds of Burntchurch were located there at an early period, filling public offices, such as sheriffs and justices of the peace, through the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; they were indiscriminately termed Fitzgerald, Fitzmorris, and Baron.—From the fact of no mention being made of the Brownsford Fitzgeralds as early as those of the Burntchurch family, it would appear that the former were a branch of the latter. The first mention of a baron of Brownsford is that of David Fitzgerald, Esquire, who, in 1585, executed a deed, conveying his property to Gerald Blanchfield, or

Blanchville, of Blanchvillestown, parish of Gowran, and others, for the use of, and in trust for, his grandson, Edmund Fitzgerald. This property consisted of Brownsford, with two salmon weirs and one water-mill on the Nore, Cluan, Coolnamuck, Ballygub, Oldcourt, &c. This David is sometimes styled 'Baron of Clone.' He died on the 14th of April, 1621. He was married to Joan Morris, of Castlemorris, by whom he had three daughters, Alice, Ellenor, and Margaret; Ellen was married to Robert de Freyne, of Ballyreddy, who died 17th May, 1643, and to whose memory was erected the tomb and a way-side cross at Ballyneal, as described in our *Transactions* for the year 1850, page 176. On the 17th September, 1622, it was found by inquisition that Edmund, grandson of David Fitzgerald, baron of Brownsford, was seized in fee of the townlands of Brownsford, Cluan, Ballygub, and Coolnamuck, together with a burgagery in Rosbercon, and two messuages or houses in Innistogue. Charles I. having issued a commission to inquire into defective titles to land, &c., by virtue thereof, on the 13th of February, 1638, Edmund Fitzgerald got a grant securing him in the possession of his property in the town of Innistogue, the townland of Coolsillage, also two messuages in Rosbercon, the patent of which is contained in these two worn pieces of parchment, and authenticated by the great seal of the kingdom. They were lent to me in 1845, by Mr. Thomas Gaffney, of Ballyduff, and remained in my possession ever since, and, he having since kindly bestowed them to me, I think the museum of the Kilkenny Archæological Society the fittest place for their safe keeping. This Edmund Fitzgerald took part in the wars of 1641, and on the 10th January, 1647, sat in the assembly or parliament of the Confederate Catholics in Kilkenny. He, however, contrived to retain at least part of his estate, for by an inquisition taken at the Black Abbey, in Kilkenny, in 1664, it is stated that Edmund Fitzgerald was seized of the townlands of Brownsford and Curraghmore, of which sixty-three acres, one rood and eight perches, were retrenched and vested in the king. Large portions of the property were granted away to Cromwellian adventurers, but a remnant, including the castles of Brownsford and Cluan, or Clonamery, remained in the possession of Edward, the son of the above named Edmund Fitzgerald. Edward represented Innistogue in the Irish parliament of James II., and fell at Aughrim, when the whole patrimonial estate was confiscated."*

BALLYMOON CASTLE.—Mr. W. R. Blackett contributed the following notice of this ancient example of the military architecture of Ireland:—

"Ballymoon castle is situate in the County of Carlow, barony of Idrone East, parish of Dunleckny, and townland of Ballymoon; it is visible from the high road from Bagnalstown to Fenagh, about two miles from the former place. It is a square enclosure, with walls on an average about fifteen feet in height, and from six to four feet thick. The enclosure is about one hundred and thirty feet square, and contained domestic

* His sword, brought back from that fatal field by his horse-boy, named Sinnott, has been deposited in the museum of the Society by Mr. Edmund Butler of Innistogue.—EDS.

buildings ; these extended nearly all round the interior, but are ruined to the foundations.* The north side has a tower externally, which has no door level with the ground, and must have been entered from the upper story. It has a loop-hole in the western angle, and there is another loop farther west in the curtain wall, which has no other loop-holes or apertures on the exterior. The east side has one square tower about the middle, and another nearly at the southern angle ; these have loop-holes on the angles, and there are other loops in the wall itself, which is in some places hollowed to a considerable extent. The door-ways of these towers and chambers in the wall are of that peculiar shape, which is called by Bloxam, 'square-headed trefoil.' The splayed loop-holes are, internally, surmounted by equilateral pointed arches ; and externally they are cruciform, with rounded angles. There are in the walls, between the loop-holes, small passages forming inclined planes sloping inwards, from the top to the bottom of the wall. With the use of these I am unacquainted, and shall be glad if any member of the Society can inform me on this subject. The south side has, nearly in the middle, a large oblong tower ; this is divided into two stories, both of which are arched over with pointed arches. The lower story has been divided, I think, into three rooms, but this part is much dilapidated ; one of these rooms is now inhabited by an old man. The upper story is undivided, and the entrance was probably by steps in the wall, on the west side of it, where there are steps leading to the top of the wall. Near the middle of the west side is the gate-way ; the arch of which has entirely disappeared, but from its height, I should think it was pointed. Inside, the groove for the portcullis is visible, and on the south side was a staircase in the wall, ascending to a small chamber over the grate, which had a narrow loop-hole, the only remaining evidence of its existence ; this staircase was entered by a small pointed arch. The joints of the arch-stones radiate from a point level with the ground, instead of from one on a level with the spring of the arch. This castle is said to have been built in 1300, by the knights templars ; according to this it was occupied by them only thirteen years, as the order was suppressed in 1313. The castle is remarkably well preserved and perfect."

GOLD MEDAL STRUCK BY BISHOP PEARSON.—The Rev. J. M. Pearson made the following communication to the Society, accompanying gutta percha moulds of the medal alluded to, from which it would appear that the interesting family memorial in question belongs to a very high class of art. The obverse of the medal exhibits a half-length figure of the Saviour, crowned with thorns, and displaying his wounds ; on either side are the words, *VULNERA CHRISTI* ; and beneath, the date, 1686, together with the letters, *S. D.* The reverse is charged with the emblems of the passion arranged like a trophy, together with the inscription, *NOSTRA MEDELA* :—

* The "Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland" states that some curious specimens of armour, and a beautiful set of diamond beads, were dug up, a few years ago, from among the ruins of this castle—article 'Ballymoon.'—Eds.

"I beg leave to present to the Society an impression from the family medal of John Pearson, bishop of Chester, of which I think a cast should be taken, to add to any of a similar or other description, already lodged in the museum of the Society, as we do not limit ourselves merely to objects connected with our County, or of remote Celtic antiquity; our design embracing a variety of particulars, which may possess a more recent tie, or interest. I shall, therefore, without further preliminary, make a few observations in relation to this medal, now nearly two centuries old (its date being 1686, the year of bishop Pearson's death), as it may possess considerable interest in the estimation of many, from its connexion with an excellent and truly learned man. It is of gold, and has been in possession of his family, long resident in the City of Dublin, intimately connected with it, as its annals testify, and at one period very numerous there, and descended from Simon Pearson, Esq., a son of bishop Pearson, who settled in Dublin, with his wife Julianna—the latter respectable, not solely as being a relative to the inheritor of a title, but, as member of the family of West. The medal subsequently passed down through his descendants, and remains at present in possession of Dr. Pearson, Leinster-road, Dublin, who not only responded to my request, for an impression of the medal, for presentation to the museum, but, in the kindest manner, prepared it himself for me, to that end. I have heard from a very near relative now deceased, that the bishop of Chester had three of these medals struck and given to his son and nearest relations, that if they should meet afterwards, either in the high-ways or by-ways of this ever shifting scene, they might exhibit a kindred spirit of kindness to each other. Family medals, I believe, were formerly struck in England, by men who had arrived to any eminence, and given for the purpose here mentioned, which will account for what may otherwise appear a singular act in the instance recorded."

CURLUDDY CASTLE.—Mr. Patrick Cody, corresponding member for the Mullinavat district, forwarded a very minute description of the old castle of Curluddy, situate in the barony of Iverk, on an eminence near the Suir. The Celtic name of this building, he stated, was *Cathair Luidah*, i.e., the fortress of Luidah; this appellation having been softened down by modern pronunciation to that of Curluddy, and so it has given name to the townland in which it stands.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY PAMPHLETS.—Archdeacon Cotton forwarded for the use of the Society a list of the printed tracts relating to the period of the Confederate Catholics, Cromwell's campaigns in Ireland, and the Revolution of 1690, many of which were printed in Kilkenny, and now preserved in the diocesan library of Cashel. The pamphlets were bound in volumes, and the reference to the case and shelf of the library were also supplied for more easy reference. It were much to be wished, that other members of the Society, in the various towns in which long established public libraries exist, would follow Dr. Cotton's example, and, by forwarding similar reports to the Secretaries, enable

a full list to be made out of all the tracts remaining to us from those eventful periods of Irish history. The pamphlets are as follow :—

H. 9. 3.

1. A Proclamation concerning a Cessation of Arms, agreed on at Siginstown, County of Kildare, September 15, 1643, between the Marquis of Ormonde, and Lord Muskerry, Dillon, Plunket, and others. 4to. pp. 10.
2. Propositions of the Irish Rebels (by the name of the Roman Catholics of Ireland), presented to His Majestie in pursuance of their Remonstrance of Grievances. 4to. *London*, 1644, pp. 6.
3. A Proclamation by the Lords Justices, commanding the Earl of Fingall, Viscount Gormanstown, Viscount Netterville, Barons of Slane, Trimlestown, Dunsany, and Louth, to appear before them; with a safe-conduct, 13th December, 1641 (broadside).
4. The Propositions of the Roman Catholicks of Ireland, presented to the King, in April, 1644, with the Protestants' answer, &c., &c. 4to. *Waterford*, printed by Thomas Bourke, printer to the Confederate Catholics of Ireland. 1644, pp. 80; pages 33 to 36 being double.
5. A Mighty Victory over the Irish Rebels obtained by Colonel Jones at Lyncey's Knock neere Trim, 8 August, 1647. *Dublin*, pp. 6.
6. A Proclamation by the Supreme Councell of the Confederat Catholicks of Ireland. Kilkenny Castle, 3rd June, 1648 (broadside). Printed at *Kilkenny*.
7. The Declaration of Owen O'Neill, &c., together with the answer of the Right Honorable the Supream Councell of the Confederat Catholicks of Ireland thereunto. Printed at *Kilkenny* by order of the Councell, 1648, pp. 16.
8. A Speech made by the Lord Lieutenant General to the General Assembly of the Confederate Catholiques in the City of Kilkenny, at the conclusion of the Peace (broadside). Printed at *Corcke*, 1648.

H. 9. 2.

9. The Declaration of the Protestant Army in the Province of Munster. Printed at *Cork*, in 1648, 4to. pp. 18.
10. The Declaration of the Lord Marquis of Clanricard, beginning, "Whereas I have often before now since the beginning of these commotions interposed my best endeavours, &c.—Given at Portumna the tenth day of June, 1648." 4to. 3 leaves—the title wanting. The type is very like that in use at *Kilkenny*.
11. The Copie of a Letter written by Owen O'Neyll inviting Jones to come to Ballysonan and Caterlagh, intercepted: and the Councell's Declaration upon the said Letter. (The lower part of the title is torn off: but I think the tract was printed at *Kilkenny*. 4to. two leaves. At the end is, "Printed by command of Mountgarret" (and nine other names).

H. 9. 6.

12. The Copy of a Letter from Viscount Gormanstown to Sir Phelim O'Neal: found in Sir Philips' cloak-bag, on 16 June, 1642, 4to. pp. 8.
13. The Articles of Peace, made by James Marquess of Ormonde with the General Assembly of Roman Catholics. Reprinted, 1661, 4to.
14. The Marquess of Ormond's Proclamation of Charles II. for King, upon his father's death; with the articles of agreement between him and the Irish, &c., 16 Feb. 1649, 4to. pp. 24.
15. The Marquess of Ormond's Proclamation of a Peace with the Irish Rebels at the General Assembly at Kilkenny: with a Speech of Sir Richard Blake, Speaker of the Assembly, 1648, 4to.
H. 9. 1.
16. The Civil Articles of Lymerick, exactly printed from the Letters Patents. 4to. *Dublin*, 1692. Published by Authority.
17. The Military Articles of Lymerick (as before). 4to. *Dublin*, 1692.
18. La Conquête d'Irlande, Dialogue en vers. 4to. 1621, pp. 18.
H. 9. 4.
19. Further Instructions unto C. Fleetwood, Lieut^t General of the Army in Ireland, and others, 1653, 4to. pp. 10. Appendix, pp. 4.
20. Assessment upon the Precinct of [] for the pay of the Parliament-forces in Ireland. Dated at Kilkennie Castle, 23d Oct. 1652.
21. An Act (1640) for speedy reducing of the Rebels in Ireland. 4to.
22. An Act for the settling of Ireland, 1652, 4to.
23. The Great Case of Transplantation in Ireland discussed. 1655, 4to.
24. True Intelligence from Ireland: how the Rebels stole away 300 horses by night out of the fields near Dublin, &c., with the conviction of the Earl of Castlehaven for High Treason. 1642, 4to.

GUN-MONEY ISSUED BY JAMES II. IN IRELAND. — The Rev. Dr. Cotton communicated the ensuing list of the most noticeable varieties of this coinage, which we have endeavoured to indicate as clearly as the resources of typography will supply the means: in many instances the absence or diversity of the stops afford the means of distinguishing the different dies. Dr. Cotton would be glad to exchange duplicates with any other collector; his address is, "Rectory, Thurles;" he possesses all the varieties named, except four, viz., the pewter crown, half-crown No. 12, shilling No. 18, and six-pence No. 6.

I.—CROWNS.

1. Sword of equestrian figure upright.
2. Do. slanting.
3. Pewter.

II.—HALF-CROWNS.

1689.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>July</i> . | 5. <i>Sep^r</i> . |
| 2. <i>Aug</i> . | 6. <i>Sep^r</i> . (the <i>p</i> flourished at bottom) |
| 3. <i>Aug^t</i> . | 7. <i>Sep^r</i> : |
| 4. <i>Aug^t</i> . (with date <i>below</i> the month) | 8. Oct. |

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 9. <i>Oct.</i> | 15. <i>Nov.</i> |
| 10. <i>OCT^r.</i> | 16. <i>Dec.</i> |
| 11. <i>OCT^R.</i> | 17. <i>Jan.</i> |
| 12. <i>OCT</i> | 18. <i>Jan</i> |
| 13. 8. ^{ber} | 19. <i>Feb :</i> |
| 14. <i>Nov :</i> | 20. <i>Mar.</i> |

1690.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <i>Mar.</i> | 7. <i>may</i> (small) |
| 2. <i>Apr :</i> (large) | 8. <i>June</i> |
| 3. <i>Apr :</i> (small) | 9. <i>June.</i> |
| 4. <i>May</i> | 10. <i>July</i> |
| 5. <i>May :</i> (large) | 11. <i>Aug :</i> |
| 6. <i>May.</i> | 12. <i>Oct :</i> |

III.—SHILLINGS.

1689.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. <i>June</i> (doubtful) | 16. <i>Nov^r.</i> |
| 2. <i>July</i> | 17. 9 ^r . |
| 3. <i>July.</i> | 18. 9 ^r (castle under head) |
| 4. <i>Aug.</i> | 19. <i>Dec</i> |
| 5. <i>Aug^t.</i> | 20. <i>Dec^r :</i> |
| 6. <i>Aug^t</i> | 21. 10 ^r |
| 7. <i>Sep^t.</i> | 22. 10 ^r (last letter of "GRATIA" |
| 8. <i>Sep^r</i> | omitted) |
| 9. <i>Sep^r.</i> | 23. <i>Jan.</i> |
| 10. <i>Oct :</i> | 24. <i>Jan :</i> |
| 11. <i>OCT^r.</i> | 25. <i>Feb</i> |
| 12. 8 BE ^r | 26. <i>Feb :</i> |
| 13. 8 BER | 27. <i>Mar :</i> |
| 14. <i>Nov :</i> | 28. <i>Mar</i> |
| 15. <i>Nov.</i> | |

1690.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <i>Mar :</i> | 6. <i>may</i> |
| 2. <i>Apr</i> | 7. <i>June</i> |
| 3. <i>Apr :</i> (large and small) | 8. <i>July</i> (doubtful) |
| 4. <i>May</i> | 9. <i>Aug</i> (doubtful) |
| 5. <i>MAY.</i> | 10. <i>Sep :</i> |

IV.—SIX-PENCES.

1689.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <i>June</i> | 8. <i>Dec.</i> |
| 2. <i>July</i> | 9. <i>Dec :</i> |
| 3. <i>July :</i> | 10. <i>Jan :</i> |
| 4. <i>Aug^t</i> | 11. <i>Jan</i> |
| 5. <i>Sep</i> | 12. <i>Jan.</i> |
| 6. 7 ^{ber} | 13. <i>Feb :</i> |
| 7. <i>Nov.</i> | |

1690.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. <i>May</i> | 2. <i>May :</i> |
|---------------|-----------------|

DISCOVERY OF COINS AT CLOONSHARRAGH.—Mr. R. Hitchcock forwarded for exhibition two silver groats and a silver penny of Henry VIII., accompanied by the following brief paper:—

“I wish to place on record in some archæological publication a discovery which appears to me very interesting, and which may hereafter be of some use to the local historian.

“In January, 1847, the workmen employed by the Board of Works in making a new road through the lands of Cloonsharragh, near Cloghane, in the barony of Corkaguiny, in the west of the County of Kerry—a very remote locality—discovered about thirty-five silver coins of Henry VIII. Having been then connected with the Board of Works, and residing in Dingle, I soon heard of the discovery, and made every possible inquiry as to the number of coins found, the circumstances attending the discovery, &c.; and shortly afterwards I visited the place myself. The men were cutting down a high bank, and in so doing, some of the coins fell out, which immediately brought numbers of them to the spot, who soon divided and subdivided the whole between them. I could not hear of more than the thirty-five coins having been discovered; but I think there were more found. The spot in which they were found, as shown to me, appeared to be about three feet below the surface, in a dry gravelly clay. There is not the least trace of a building or any ruin near the place where the coins were discovered, nor even a tradition of such having ever existed there. The locality appears on sheets 34 and 35 of the Ordnance Survey of the County. I obtained a few of the coins, three of which I send for the inspection of the meeting. They appear to be in good preservation; the heads are in profile. The legends on the two large coins read:—obverse, HENRIC. VIII. D. G. R. AGL. & FRANC.—reverse, POSVI. DEV. ADIVTORE. MEV.; that on the small one:—obverse, HENRIC. VIII. D. G. R. AGL. & FR.—reverse much effaced, but not the same as that of the two large coins.”

DUTCH TOBACCO-BOX.—Charles E. Ross, Esq., M.D., Castlecomer, sent for exhibition, through Mr. Graves, a copper box, six inches long, an inch and a-half wide, and similar depth, having a perpetual almanac on the cover; the Dutch words “regt door zee” on the front; on the bottom a table, the use of which could not be easily devised, and the dates 1489 and 1497. The box had been found in the winter of 1849, on a farm some time since occupied by a man named John Neill, now deceased, and which has since passed into the occupation of Dr. Edge, of Fairy Mount; within a few perches of which locality Neill’s land is situated. The box was discovered, by persons employed in drainage works, in the foundation of an old ivy-grown wall, about a yard under the surface, and was probably hidden there by Neill, as it had often been seen in his hands while alive, and report said that in it he kept his money. The labourer who dug it up shortly after shipped himself and family to America, although previously very poor, so that it is probable it was not found empty.

With reference to this, and a similar box exhibited by Dr. Todd, at a late meeting of the Royal Irish Academy, the Secretaries have received the following obliging communication in reply to one addressed to that gentleman :—

“The tobacco-box which I presented at the last meeting of the Academy, and which was found at Bantry bay, is, I conceive, a facsimile of yours—and I remarked at the time that although it bore the date 1497, it could not be older than the 17th century. It contains a Dutch or German inscription, which is not very intelligible, but seems to mean ‘the perpetual or fixed eras of the almanac.’ I do not exactly perceive the use of the table on the bottom, and have not had time to study it; 1497 is probably some fixed era from which, by means of the numbers on the table, calculations may be made. On the front side are the words ‘regt door zee,’ exactly as on your box. There is no second date on the box as in yours.”

ANTIQUITIES IN THE COUNTY OF WATERFORD.—Mr. W. R. Blackett of Ballyne communicated the following interesting account of some antiquities situate in the County of Waterford :—

“I have lately visited some antiquities in the County of Waterford, an account of which may be interesting to the members of the Kilkenny Archæological Society. Crossing the Suir at Tibroughny, and climbing over the hills on the other side, I came to a church-yard called Temple-noagh. The walls of this church seem not to have been built of stone and mortar, but of clay. There is nothing remaining but a bank forming an enclosure sixteen feet long, and eight feet wide, including the thickness of the walls. This bank consists of earth mixed with small stones: it is about three feet thick. The church-yard is a circular enclosure, forty yards in diameter. I believe the clay wall is a peculiarity; at least I have never seen any other example of it. There seems to have been a door near the east end, on the north side. Not more than a quarter of a mile from this place is an Ogham stone. It stands by the side of the high road from Carrick to Portlaw, in fact so near that it is very surprising it was not taken down, when the road was being made; from where it stands for nearly a mile, the road is lined with stones, many of which are remains of cromleacs and other antiquities! But the people have a great veneration for this stone. It is about nine feet high, and tapers from the bottom, where it is three feet seven inches in breadth, to the top, where it forms a sharp point. It cannot be deeply sunk in the earth, for it lessens considerably before it reaches the ground. It is eighteen inches thick, and consists of a rough conglomerate, smoother on the south side, where are most of the marks.*

“The tradition of the locality concerning this stone is as follows :—

* Mr. Blackett, to illustrate this part of his paper, gave a drawing of this remarkable Ogham monument, which has, however, been already engraved in the *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, vol. ii. p. 514; but there is no attempt there made to decipher the inscription, nor has the curious tradition above supplied been previously noticed.—Eds.

Aengus, king of Munster, came to invade Leinster with a great army ; the king of Leinster (whose name is not remembered) crossed the Suir at a place called Tinholla to resist him ; the two armies met at Ballyquin where this stone stands, and there they were about to join battle. A druid, who was in the army of the king of Munster, said it was a pity that so many should be killed for the quarrel of two men ; so the king of Munster challenged the king of Leinster to single combat. They fought, Aengus was slain at this place, and this stone was erected, to commemorate his death ; the inscription is said to signify, ‘ Aengus is interred here.’

“ I have next to offer a description of the holy well and abbey of Mothel ; and first of the holy well. It is nearly a mile distant from the abbey, and is situate in a hollow, having a steep hill on each side. It is called ‘ Tubber Cuan agus Breoghan,’ by which two saints it was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The well itself is a small reservoir of an elliptical form, and its walls bear evident marks of antiquity. The water is discharged from this reservoir into a stream that runs by. Close to the well are the foundations of an ancient building, which was probably an oratory for the use of pilgrims, or a hermit’s cell. It was thirty-five feet long, by sixteen feet broad, and was supported by a buttress near the east end. This little well, situate in a green hollow, and shadowed by an immense hollow ash tree, that may have seen some five hundred summer patrons held under its shade, forms an extremely pretty scene. The patron (of SS. Cuan and Breoghan) is held here on the second Sunday in July. Within sight of this well, and on the slope to the north of it, are two cromleacs, partaking in a remarkable degree of a similar form and construction. They both consist of a large covering-stone resting at one end on the ground, and at the other supported by two small upright ones. The smaller of these two cromleacs is, in its highest part, only seven feet from the ground, and the supports are but four feet in height. The covering-stone is nearly triangular, being fourteen feet long, by ten feet broad, and three feet thick ; these are its extreme dimensions. The great stone of the other cromleac is also nearly triangular, but it is much larger, being fifteen feet long, eight feet broad, and five feet thick ; it is ten feet from the ground at the highest part. One of the supports is fallen, and the other seems very insecure. This is without doubt the heaviest cromleac I have seen. It is not so high as the Leac-an-Scail, but the great stone is much larger ; it seems to hang suspended in the air, so feebly is it supported. These cromleacs are not more than a hundred yards apart ; and it would seem probable that they commemorate some two great men who were killed at the same time in battle.

“ Mothel monastery was founded by the saints Cuan and Breoghan in the sixth century. The monastery, of which the walls now standing are the remains, is evidently of much later date, and was built in the usual cruciform shape ; the length was one hundred feet, the breadth twenty-seven feet, and the transept was twenty-seven feet by sixteen ; the

only remains now standing are the southern transept, part of the south wall, and half the western gable. The arch leading into the transept is semicircular, and very simple, merely having chamfered angles. There are two windows in the south side, one of which is divided into two lancet-headed lights; the whole has been repaired, merely to keep it from falling. There are two enclosed burying-places, which, together with the modern church, must have used up most of the stones of which the more ancient church was built. The arch leading into the transept is built up, and there are inserted in the wall some quaint sculptures. There are some more in the gable of the transept, making five in all, four of which are of the same length, viz., three feet, and the other two feet; there are three figures on each stone. There is a beautiful double capital built into the wall of the transept. There are three ancient tomb-stones in the church-yard, on one of which I read the date, 1628. Another of the tomb-stones is of the more ancient form, being broader at one end than at the other; the remaining tomb-stone is not remarkable. There is a cross in the church-yard, used as a head-stone to a grave; it may have been a gable cross of the church. There is also here a singular stone, the use of which I am at a loss to explain.* It is three feet ten inches long, one foot two inches broad, and is two and a-half inches thick. I enclose a drawing of it."

The following supplemental observations have been supplied by Mr. Hitchcock:—"I always like to read such papers as Mr. Blackett's. They do not tire one by their length, and yet they contain a pleasing mixture of the primæval with the mediæval; and be the reader 'Pagan' or 'Christian,' he may find in them something to satisfy him. I have myself seen most of the remains described by Mr. Blackett, and I have one or two matters in my notes of them which I do not see in his paper. The church is that of St. Fenoagh, the patron saint of the parish, but I believe the 'f' is not sounded in the name Temple Fenoagh. The clay-built walls are very remarkable in a church; and, like Mr. Blackett, I do not remember having seen another formed of the same material, though I have seen some hundreds of old churches in various parts of Ireland. I take the clay structure to be a sign of the scarcity of stones in the neighbourhood, but I may be mistaken. The engraving and description of the Ballyquin Ogham stone, by Professor Oldham, in the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, are not quite accurate, nor are Mr. Blackett's dimensions altogether as I have them; but as this fine monument of antiquity will probably be engraved and described by Dr. Graves in his forthcoming splendid work on the Ogham inscriptions, I defer saying any more on it here. To the curious tradition respecting the stone given by Mr. Blackett, I may, however, add the following, from Ryland's History of Waterford,

* From Mr. Blackett's drawing this appears to have been one of the supports of an altar tomb; and amongst the sculptures upon it is a shield, bearing the "chief indented" of the Butler family.—EDS.

which I bring forward to show you his ideas of an Ogham inscription, but chiefly on account of the underground chambers which he mentions :—‘About half a mile distant from the last gate, on an eminence which commands a splendid view of the earl of Bessborough’s improvements in the County of Kilkenny, and on the left hand side of the road, stands a stone of considerable magnitude, raised at least eight feet above the level of the ground. There are various traditions among the country people with regard to the causes of elevation of this stone, and the agents who were employed in the work, but all of them too absurd to deserve notice here. Certain marks on one side of it, have by some been imagined to make part of an inscription, now almost entirely defaced; by others they are said to be the marks left by the fingers of those gigantic beings who amused themselves in the removal and erection of this stone. At the distance of about forty yards, within the hedge, on the side of the road, there was discovered, in the year 1810, the entrance into a subterranean chamber eight feet square, and at the further extremity of this, a passage between two and three feet square, which led into a second apartment of the same dimensions as the former, and from thence into a third. The first discoverers not being gifted with much taste for subterranean research, preferred the more expeditious way of prosecuting their inquiries by digging in the field above, and having thus loosened the stone arch which formed the ceiling, the entire of the roof of the third apartment fell in, and thus put a stop to any further discovery. It has been supposed, that the large stone before mentioned, was intended as a mark by which the entrance into these subterranean chambers might be readily found, and that the apartments themselves were used as hiding-places during the various persecutions, disturbances and civil wars, which have for centuries afflicted this unhappy country.’—pp. 285-6. I remember myself having heard a very faint sketch of the tradition mentioned by Mr. Blackett, when I visited the Ballyquin stone, in July, 1848, but I could make nothing of it. If it is true, it may be a matter of some importance to those who advocate a pre-Christian origin and use for the Ogham inscriptions. Perhaps it would be worth while to ascertain if the ‘subterranean chamber’ mentioned by Ryland is still in existence; if it is, the re-opening of it, by proper persons, may repay the trouble; and it is to be hoped that Mr. Blackett, who has given us such an interesting account of the Ogham stone in the immediate vicinity, will not lose sight of the matter. It is rather strange, that the Ballyquin stone, although a very conspicuous object, is not marked on the Ordnance Survey maps of the County, on sheet 3 of which it ought to appear.

“The holy well mentioned by Mr. Blackett is an exceedingly interesting one. The situation of the well in a little valley, as mentioned, the venerable ash tree by which it is shaded, the trunk of which measures from five to six feet in diameter, the offerings strewed and hung around, the remains of the little buildings, and the loneliness of the spot, must

all produce a scene not easily forgotten. 'Rounds' are performed at this well every year, from the 24th of June to the 15th of July, I suppose both inclusive; and on the second Sunday in July a 'pattern' is annually held at the place. In addition to the rags, nails, buttons, pins, &c., which I have seen left as the usual offerings at other holy wells, the venerable ash tree at Tobercooan has numerous bits of *human hair* tied on it. The name of this well, according to the Ordnance Survey, is 'Toberquan,' and the ancient building described by Mr. Blackett is probably Kilquan church,* but the well is better known by the name of 'Tobercooan and Brogane.' Let us now only turn round, and what do we see on the rising ground before us?—two huge but unfortunately injured cromleacs, carrying on their very faces a remote antiquity. Farther to the north, in the townland of Rath, there is another cromleac, which appears to be within a sort of circle. It is curious that these monuments, which are invariably called *Leaba Dhiarmada agus Ghraíne* in Connaught and North Munster, are here called either giants' beds or giants' graves, which comes much nearer the truth. Cromleacs are amongst the earliest monuments erected by man; they are found in India, and other parts of the East. See Vallancey's *Collectanea*, vol. iv. p. 479, *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, vol. i. p. 151, *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, vol. i. p. 91, &c.

"I do not remember having seen the abbey of Mothel, though perhaps I have; but I have no note of it. Lewis, in his *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*, a work containing a vast mass of interesting information on the history and antiquities of the country, though not always correct, states, that it was St. Brogan who founded the abbey of Mothel, that he was the first abbot of it, and was succeeded by St. Coan. The 'quaint sculptures' mentioned by Mr. Blackett are probably those described by Lewis as follows:—'Six remarkably sculptured stones, inserted in different parts of the wall, present rude historical reliefs, and the rest are figures of the apostles'—article 'Mothell.'"

* According to Lewis' *Topographical Dictionary*, there are parishes named Kilquane in the Counties of Clare, Cork, Galway, Kerry, and Limerick. I know well the parish in the County of Kerry. There is also a townland named Coan in the County of Kilkenny; and, singularly enough, it adjoins a parish of Mothell.

CORRIGENDA.

- p. 290, line 32, for "See Fionn," read "See Finn," and for "*Suidhe Fionn*," read "*Suidhe Finn*".
- p. 291, line 17, after "wide," dele " , ,".
- p. 292, line 18, for "covering stone," read "covering-stone".
- Ib. line 41, after "Gaul," insert " , ,".
- p. 293, line 4, for "Suidhe Fionn," read "Suidhe Finn," and for "*Suidhe Fionn*," read "*Suidhe Finn*".
- p. 322, line 3, from bottom, for "Argatros," read "Argetros".
- p. 323, line 9, for "Acadamy," read "Academy".
- p. 324, line 3, for "Fratertach," read "Flahertach".
- p. 387, line 14, for "centre," read "cavern".
- p. 400, line 28, after "what" insert "we".
- Ib. line 40, after "survey," insert " , ,".
- p. 407, line 38, *note*, after "custody," dele ") ".
- p. 410, line 4, from bottom, *note*, for "ΤΗΟΚΡΑΤΗ," read "ΤΗΟΚΡΑΤΗ".
- p. 412, line 25, for "sight," read "site".
- p. 413, line 3, for "HORE," read "HOARE".
- p. 433, line 28, for "for," read "but".
- p. 442, line 2, for "RSQ.," read "ESQ".
- p. 446, line 15, after "lordship," dele " , ,".
- p. 483, line 13, for "earls of Saxon," read "Saxon earls".
- p. 492, line 3, from bottom, after "*Kilkenny*," insert ") ".